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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 38 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to recognize and thank Mrs. Josephine Franklin of Memphis for her exceptional contributions to the field of education.

WHEREAS, there are few people who have the gift of motivating others to reach their fullest potential, and even fewer are in a position to directly influence children. One of these rare but very important persons is Mrs. Josephine Franklin of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a first grade teacher at Memphis's Westwood Elementary School, Josephine Franklin is one of the city schools' most decorated teachers; and

WHEREAS, her many awards include the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, and the Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence. This year she was awarded the Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education, a prestigious award for urban educators given by the Council of the Great City Schools; and

WHEREAS, Josephine began her career in 1967 as an editor-typist at Dunn & Bradstreet. She obtained a degree in elementary education from Northeastern Illinois University, with an emphasis in specializing in teaching culturally disadvantaged children and a minor in African American history; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, Josephine started teaching in inner-city Chicago and taught at Lincoln Elementary from 1974-85, and since 1985, she has taught at Westwood Elementary; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Franklin has maintained the philosophy that just because the children are from backgrounds of economic hardship, doesn't mean they are any less intelligent. She strives to "set the bar high" as she confidently barges into topics that many other educators would assume are too complicated for first-graders; and

WHEREAS, Josephine's exemplary teaching skills are demonstrated by the fact that her student's average Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) scores are above the national average, a record that reflects well upon her students' willingness to learn; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Franklin is committed to her students, as her teachers were committed to her growing up in Chicago, and will remain in the inner-city until she retires; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Franklin incorporates new seminar techniques into her daily classroom lesson plans; virtually every activity is hands on, as she teaches children to be "lifelong learners"; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, she has enjoyed the loving companionship and support of her husband, James Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Franklin has touched the lives of many children in her years of teaching; she teaches students to love learning by her own example, guiding them with positive reinforcement and helping them to reach their fullest potential; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mrs. Josephine Franklin for her many contributions to the field of education and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.